

COMMITMENTS AND RELEASES TO JAILS  
AND HOUSES OF CORRECTION FOR THE YEARS  
1974 AND 1975

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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This report monitors admissions to and releases from Jails and Houses of Correction for the years 1974 and 1975.

In the 14 counties of the Commonwealth, there are 14 Jails and 13 Houses of Correction. Nantucket County has neither a Jail nor House of Correction. Essex County has two Jails and two Houses of Correction, one in Lawrence and one in Salem. Dukes County has only a Jail, located in Edgartown.

The Jails are used mainly for the detention of persons awaiting court disposition of their cases, or for holding material witnesses. The purpose of the Houses of Correction is for sentenced persons committed by the courts. "Sentences cannot exceed 2½ years for any one offense but multiple sentences for two or more offenses could bring the term beyond 2½ years".<sup>1</sup> In actuality, most sentences to Jails are for approximately one month or less while sentences to Houses of Correction average six months to one year.<sup>2</sup>

In the past, the Department of Correction has compiled the "Statistical Report of the Commissioner of Correction" (public document 115) which was published annually. Recently, however, it was discovered that valuable time was being lost waiting for all data to be supplied to the Research Unit. It was decided that it was best to utilize data as it came into the Research Unit and publish separate studies which include the very same information that was found in the Commissioner's Statistical Report. Publication of these studies is in an effort to eliminate the time lag that was occurring in publishing statistical data on the Massachusetts Correctional System, from the time it was received at the Research Unit for analysis.

Tables I and II show the number of individuals committed to each Jail and House of Correction for the respective years 1974 and 1975. Comparing these two tables, commitments increased for all facilities in 1975 with the exception of Edgartown Jail and Northampton Jail and House of Correction which showed slight decreases in the number committed. The total increase of commitments to Jails and Houses of Correction for 1975 over 1974 was 897. This represents an increase of 4%.

Tables III and IV show the number of persons released from each Jail and House of Correction for the years 1974 and 1975.

A comparison of the number released for 1974 and 1975 shows that several facilities released fewer individuals in 1975 than in 1974. The facilities included in this category were Deer Island House of Correction\*, Edgartown Jail, Northampton Jail and House of Correction, Salem Jail and House of Correction and Worcester Jail and House of Correction. The remaining facilities were seen as releasing more individuals in 1975 than in 1974. The overall number released from Jails and Houses of Correction for 1975 increased by 1097. This represents an increase of 5%.

Table V compares for the years 1974 and 1975, the TOTAL number of individuals committed to Jails and Houses of Correction by reason of commitment.

TABLE VI compares for the years 1974 and 1975, the TOTAL number of individuals released from Jails and Houses of Correction by specific category of release.

TABLE VII gives the TOTAL Commitments to and Releases from Jails and Houses of Correction for the years 1974 and 1975. Also included in this table is the percent change in commitments and releases for the year 1975 as compared with the year 1974.

\* The last five weeks of data on admissions and releases from Deer Island House of Correction was not available to record.

TABLE I NUMBER OF PRISONERS COMMITTED TO EACH JAIL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1974

INSTITUTIONS	No. Persns Cnfd on 1/1/74	Sntncd by Court	Cnfd Awng Ct. Disp.	Retnd. Viol. Ste. Parol.	Retnd. Viol. Cnty. Parol.	Transfr. Rcvd.	Retnd frm Observ.	Recvd. Temp Custody	Retnd frm Escape	Hld as Witness	Other Admsns.	Total Admsns.	No. Reming.	Mnthly Avege. Cnfd.
TOTALS	1576	2904	15544	159	7	501	94	2101	193	3	579	22085	1791	16433
BARNSTABLE JAIL & H/C	54	120	382	5		5	8	106				626	55	50
BILLERICA JAIL & H/C	252	592	1828	52	4	115	27		43	3	1	2665	290	277
BOSTON JAIL	210	90	4282			19	10	527			17	4945	249	208
DEDHAM JAIL & H/C	63	126	645	4		13	4	41				833	70	62
DEER ISLAND H/C	140	258		22		60			92		2	434	140	148
EDGARTOWN JAIL		3	396		1			215			2	617	1	3
GREENFIELD JAIL & H/C	42	82	192	4	1	14	1	10			7	311	40	39
LAWRENCE JAIL & H/C	79	124	451	6		41		9	8			639	89	74
NEW BEDFORD JAIL & H/C	110	254	708	20		41	15	112	10		6	1166	110	122
NORTHAMPTON JAIL & H/C	107	159	274	6		31						470	113	105
PITTSFIELD JAIL & H/C	61	127	304	5		20	11	231	3			701	78	65
PLYMOUTH JAIL & H/C	98	157	898	2		35	6	246	1		4	1349	129	126
SALEM JAIL & H/C	112	127	1150	6		29	5	18	3			1338	98	92
SPRINGFIELD JAIL & H/C	86	177	1959	14	1	32	3	52	4		466	2708	117	100
WORCESTER JAIL & H/C	162	508	2075	13		46	4	534	29		74	3283	212	175

TABLE II  
NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO EACH JAIL  
AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 1975

INSTITUTIONS	# of prns. confd. 1/1/75	Snt. by Court	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO EACH JAIL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING															
			DECEMBER 31, 1975															
			Ret. fr. Vio. St.	Parole	Ret. Viol.	Cnty. Parol.	Trans. Rcvd.	Ret. fr. Observ.	Rcvd. fr. Temp.	Custody	Ret. fr. Escape	Hld. as Witness	Other Admissns.	Total Admissns.	Number Remaining	Mnthly. Avgf. Conf.		
TOTALS	1769	3597	16268	165	2	490	70	1597	191	3	595	22982	1932	1898				
BARNSTABLE JAIL & H/C	54	151	517	3		2	5	84				762	47	55				
BILLERICA JAIL & H/C	282	624	2089	79		73	16		51	1		2933	277	294				
BOSTON JAIL	260	55	4512			5	7	388	1		21	4989	252	246				
DEDHAM JAIL & H/C	68	178	748	5		39	3	210	10		2	1195	84	96				
DEER ISLAND H/C	135	312		11		61	3		84			471	196*	172				
EDGARTOWN JAIL	0	4	437		1		1	160	0		2	605	0	0				
GREENFIELD JAIL & H/C	41	146	176	2		9	1	22	1	1	7	365	44	47				
LAWRENCE JAIL & H/C	73	177	440	5		61		4	10		75	772	89	84				
N. BEDFORD JAIL & H/C	116	255	790	13		43	17	116	7		1	1242	94	119				
NORTHAMPTON JAIL & H/C	104	151	223	11		30						415	108	99				
PITTSFIELD JAIL & H/C	70	142	408	5	1	20	4	254	1		4	839	70	79				
PLYMOUTH JAIL & H/C	127	205	942	5		30	3	179	1	1	2	1368	117	140				
SALEM JAIL & H/C	100	169	1008	5		54	2	10	9			1257	84	96				
SPRINGFIELD JAIL & H/C	142	296	1945	1		18	3	47	5		340	2666	154	161				
WORCESTER JAIL & H/C	197	732	2033	20		45	5	123	4		141	3103	316	210				

\*Data was unavailable for the last five weeks of 1975 for DI H/C

TABLE III  
NUMBER OF PRISONERS DISCHARGED FROM EACH JAIL &  
HOUSE OF CORRECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 1974

INSTITUTIONS	EXPIRATION	GOOD CONDUCT CERTIFICATE	PAROLED BY STATE HD.	PAROLED BY CNTY. AUTH.	REL. BY AUTH. OF COURT	TRANSFER. OUT	SENT FR. OBSERV.	REL. FRM. TEMP. CUSTODY	ESCAPED	DIED	OTHER RELEASES	TOTAL RELEASES
TOTALS	2719	139	868	218	14210	593	187	1931	202	7	772	21846
BARNSTABLE JAIL & H/C	164	1	24	12	379	18	2	80			5	625
BILLERICA JAIL & H/C	278		144	37	1792	183	45	34	47	1	53	2614
BOSTON JAIL	71		9	3	4243	10	20	499		1	14	4870
DEDHAM JAIL & H/C	50	12	38	19	632	13	10	45	3		5	827
DEER ISLAND H/C	92		139	23	27	68			101			450
EDGARTOWN JAIL	1	1			394	3	8	198			11	616
GREENFLD. JAIL & H/C	51		21	9	196	15	4	10			6	312
LAWRENCE JAIL & H/C	105		27	6	445	42		10	8	2		645
N. BEDFORD JAIL & H/C	564	58	82	31	227	51	26	107	9		5	1160
NORTHAMPTON JAIL & H/C	60	15	72	7	265	25		22			6	472
PITTSFD. JAIL & H/C	70	11	30	8	389	29	16	135	2		2	692
PLYMOUTH JAIL & H/C	56	16	60	25	883	30	13	207	4	2	14	1310
SALEM JAIL & H/C	75	25	46	7	1139	32	11	9	3	1	2	1350
SPRINGFLD. JAIL & H/C	776		34	2	1298	27	19	39	7		453	2655
WORCESTER JAIL & H/C	366		142	29	1901	47	13	536	18		196	3248



TABLE IV

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM EACH JAIL &  
HOUSE OF CORRECTION DURING THE YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31, 1975

INSTITUTIONS	EXPIRATION	GOOD CONDUCT CERTIFICATE	PAROLED BY STATE BD.	PAROLED BY CNTY. AUTH.	REL. BY AUTH. OF COURT	TRANSFERS OUT	SENT FR. OBSERV.	REL. FRM. TEMP. CUST.	ESCAPED	DIED	OTHER RELEASES	TOTAL RELEASES
TOTALS	2621	122	989	246	15663	658	178	1565	210	13	678	22943
BARNSTABLE JAIL & H/C	259		37	13	321	40	9	77	1	1	7	765
BILLERICA JAIL & H/C	316		188	56	2089	91	32	55	58	2	52	2939
BOSTON JAIL	40		9	2	4478	32	25	389	3	4	18	5000
DEDHAM JAIL & H/C	84	19	41	17	766	30	9	187	12	1	12	1178
DEER ISLAND H/C	117		104	17	21	63	3	1	80	2	2	410
EDGARTOWN JAIL	3				425	9	8	147			13	605
GREENFELD JAIL & H/C	68		17	6	208	26	3	22	3		9	362
LAWRENCE JAIL & H/C	109		36	7	457	61	1	5	16		64	756
N. BEDFORD JAIL & H/C	186	35	72	25	717	55	24	133	8	1	7	1263
NORTHAMPTON JAIL & H/C	84	15	61	11	223	11		1			5	411
PITTSFELD JAIL & H/C	87	15	33	21	474	17	23	163	3		3	839
PLYMOUTH JAIL & H/C	65	25	70	17	951	23	13	205	2		17	1388
SALEM JAIL & H/C	82	13	56	6	1016	70	8	8	12		1	1272
SPRINGFIELD JAIL & H/C	657		74	9	1449	61	8	53	5		349	2665
WORCESTER JAIL & H/C	464		191	39	2068	69	12	119	7	2	119	3090

TABLE V  
TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS COMMITTED TO  
JAILS & HOUSES OF CORRECTION - COMPARING  
STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1974 AND 1975

	Sentcd. by Courts	Confined Awaiting Ct. Disp.	Returned Violation State Parole	Returned Violation Cnty. Parole	Transfers Received	Returned from Ob- servation	Received for Temp. Custody	Returned from Escape	Held as Witness	Other Admissions	Total Admissions
1974	2904	15544	159	7	501	94	2101	193	3	579	22085
1975	3597	16268	165	2	490	70	1597	191	3	595	22982
Difference	693	724	6	5	11	24	504	2	0	16	897
Per Cent Change in 1975	+ (24)	+ (5)	+ (4)	- (71)	- (2)	- (26)	- (24)	- (1)	(0)	+ (3)	+ (4)

TABLE VI TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM  
JAILS AND HOUSES OF CORRECTION - COMPARING  
THE YEARS 1974 AND 1975

	Expiration	Good Conduct	Paroled by State Bd.	Paroled by Cnty. Auth.	Released by Auth. Court	Transferred Out	Sent for Observation	Released from Temp. Custody	Escaped	Died	Other Releases	Total Releases
1974	2719	139	868	218	14210	593	187	1931	202	7	772	21846
1975	2621	122	989	246	15663	658	178	1565	210	13	678	22943
Difference	98	17	121	28	1453	65	9	366	8	6	94	1097
Per Cent Change in 1975	-(4)	-(12)	+(12)	+(11)	+(9)	+(10)	-(5)	-(19)	+(4)	+(86)	-(12)	+(5)

TABLE VII TOTAL COMMITMENTS AND RELEASES  
FOR THE YEARS 1974 & 1975

Commitments:

1974	22,085
1975	22,982
Difference	897
Percent Change for 1975	+4%

Releases:

1974	21,846
1975	22,943
Difference	1,097
Percent Change for 1975	+5%

FOOTNOTES

1. Powers, Edwin, "The Basic Structure of the Administration of Criminal Justice in Massachusetts", Massachusetts Crime and Justice Foundation, 31 St. James Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116, Sixth Edition, July 1, 1973 p.159.
  2. Ibid.
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